

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2074

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV AKB BQG
SUBJECT: REQUEST BY SON OF RUDOLF HESS TO VISIT HIS FATHER UNDER
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

REF: BONN 15542

1. PARAGRAPH 7 REFTTEL ALLUDES TO SEPTEMBER VISIT TO BERLIN BY
UK MINISTER OF STATE JUDD AND HIS WISH TO VISIT SPANDAU PRISON.
QUESTION OF JUDD'S VISIT IS DISTINGUISHABLE FROM REQUEST OF
RUDOLF HESS'S SON TO VISIT WITH HESS PRIVATELY AND FOR AN UN-
LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME.

2. AT RECENT MEETING OF SPANDAU GOVERNORS, BRITISH (ACTING)
GOVERNOR RAISED JUDD VISIT, STATING THAT JUDD WAS ALSO RESPONSIB-
LE FOR SPANDAU MATTERS AND WAS A SUPERIOR OF THE BRITISH
COMMANDANT. BRITISH GOVERNOR REQUESTED VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNORS.
AS PREARRANGED, US GOVERNOR RESPONDED THAT WE HAD NO DIFFICULTY
WITH VISIT INASMUCH AS JUDD WAS BRITISH COMMANDANT'S SUPERIOR;
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FRENCH GOVERNOR OFFERED NO COMMENT; AND, SOVIET GOVERNOR
SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

3. AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING, SOVIET GOVERNOR REPORTED
THAT INASMUCH AS JUDD WAS BRITISH COMMANDANT'S SUPERIOR,
HIS AUTHORITIES HAD NO OBJECTION TO JUDD'S VISIT SO LONG
AS JUDD VISITED SPANDAU DURING THE COURSE OF BRITISH

COMMANDANT'S INSPECTION OF SPANDAU. FYI: SEPTEMBER IS
BRITISH MONTH AT SPANDAU. EACH MONTH COMMANDANT OF
POWER IN CHAIR AT SPANDAU MAKES AN INSPECTION OF THE PRISON.
END FYI

4. IN OUR VIEW, THE SOVIET AGREEMENT TO THE JUDD VISIT
WAS PREDICATED ON THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ARGUMENT THAT
JUDD IS A BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO HAS RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR SPANDAU AND WHO IS THE SUPERIOR OF THE
BRITISH COMMANDANT. (WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THE LATTER
IS TECHNICALLY CORRECT, BUT IT WAS THE MECHANISM AGREED
BETWEEN US AND THE BRITISH AS MOST LIKELY TO CONVINCE
THE SOVIETS.) WE BELIEVE THAT HAD THE REQUEST INVOLVED
SOME OTHER BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO COULD NOT BE
PRESENTED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPANDAU AND AS THE BRITISH
COMMANDANT'S SUPERIOR, THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE OBJECTED
TO HIS VISIT.

5. THUS, VISIT BY HESS' SON IS A QUALITATIVELY DIFFER-
ENT MATTER. IN ADDITION, HESS' SON HAS REQUESTED
THAT THE VISIT WITH HIS FATHER BE IN PRIVATE AND FOR AN
UNLIMITED PERIOD OF TIME. WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT THE
SOVIETS WILL APPROVE THIS REQUEST; FURTHERMORE, ON
GROUNDS OF NORMAL PRISON SECURITY, WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT
WE SHOULD AGREE TO A COMPLETELY PRIVATE VISIT BETWEEN
FATHER AND SON. IN OUR OPINION, ALLIED GOVERNORS SHOULD
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ASK SOVIETS THEIR VIEW ON PERMITTING THE SON AND FATHER
TO CONVERSE ALONE WHILE OBSERVED BY A PRISON WARDER OUT
OF IMMEDIATE EARSHOT. (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM THE CURRENT
SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR ALL OF THE FUR
GOVERNORS TO SEAT THEMSELVES CLOSE TO HESS AND WHICHEVER
MEMBER OF THE FAMILY IS VISITING.) SIMILARLY, THE SON'S
REQUEST FOR AN UNLIMITED TIME PERIOD FOR THE VISIT IS
UNREALISTIC. SHOULD THE SOVIETS AGREE TO A VISIT BY
THE SON WITHOUT THE USUAL CONTROLS. THEY WILL CERTAINLY
STIPULATE SOME TIME LIMIT.

6. USBER CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION, REFTTEL
PARA 3. NELSON

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